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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/691,367	10/22/2003	Michael A. McCabe	2002-IP-008009U1	1396

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Halliburton Energy Services
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EXAMINER

BUTTNER, DAVID J

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1796

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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10/11/2007

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

**Advisory Action
Before the Filing of an Appeal Brief**

Application No.

10/691,367

Applicant(s)

MCCABE ET AL.

Examiner

David Buttner

Art Unit

1796

--The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

THE REPLY FILED 28 September 2007 FAILS TO PLACE THIS APPLICATION IN CONDITION FOR ALLOWANCE.

1. ☒ The reply was filed after a final rejection, but prior to or on the same day as filing a Notice of Appeal. To avoid abandonment of this application, applicant must timely file one of the following replies: (1) an amendment, affidavit, or other evidence, which places the application in condition for allowance; (2) a Notice of Appeal (with appeal fee) in compliance with 37 CFR 41.31; or (3) a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) in compliance with 37 CFR 1.114. The reply must be filed within one of the following time periods:

- a) ☒ The period for reply expires 3 months from the mailing date of the final rejection.
b) ☐ The period for reply expires on: (1) the mailing date of this Advisory Action, or (2) the date set forth in the final rejection, whichever is later. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of the final rejection.

Examiner Note: If box 1 is checked, check either box (a) or (b). ONLY CHECK BOX (b) WHEN THE FIRST REPLY WAS FILED WITHIN TWO MONTHS OF THE FINAL REJECTION. See MPEP 706.07(f).

Extensions of time may be obtained under 37 CFR 1.136(a). The date on which the petition under 37 CFR 1.136(a) and the appropriate extension fee have been filed is the date for purposes of determining the period of extension and the corresponding amount of the fee. The appropriate extension fee under 37 CFR 1.17(a) is calculated from: (1) the expiration date of the shortened statutory period for reply originally set in the final Office action; or (2) as set forth in (b) above, if checked. Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of the final rejection, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

NOTICE OF APPEAL

2. ☐ The Notice of Appeal was filed on _____. A brief in compliance with 37 CFR 41.37 must be filed within two months of the date of filing the Notice of Appeal (37 CFR 41.37(a)), or any extension thereof (37 CFR 41.37(e)), to avoid dismissal of the appeal. Since a Notice of Appeal has been filed, any reply must be filed within the time period set forth in 37 CFR 41.37(a).

AMENDMENTS

3. ☐ The proposed amendment(s) filed after a final rejection, but prior to the date of filing a brief, will not be entered because
(a) ☐ They raise new issues that would require further consideration and/or search (see NOTE below);
(b) ☐ They raise the issue of new matter (see NOTE below);
(c) ☐ They are not deemed to place the application in better form for appeal by materially reducing or simplifying the issues for appeal; and/or
(d) ☐ They present additional claims without canceling a corresponding number of finally rejected claims.

NOTE: _____. (See 37 CFR 1.116 and 41.33(a)).

4. ☐ The amendments are not in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121. See attached Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment (PTOL-324).
5. ☐ Applicant's reply has overcome the following rejection(s): _____.
6. ☐ Newly proposed or amended claim(s) _____ would be allowable if submitted in a separate, timely filed amendment canceling the non-allowable claim(s).
7. ☐ For purposes of appeal, the proposed amendment(s): a) ☐ will not be entered, or b) ☐ will be entered and an explanation of how the new or amended claims would be rejected is provided below or appended.
The status of the claim(s) is (or will be) as follows:
Claim(s) allowed: _____.
Claim(s) objected to: _____.
Claim(s) rejected: _____.
Claim(s) withdrawn from consideration: _____.

AFFIDAVIT OR OTHER EVIDENCE

8. ☐ The affidavit or other evidence filed after a final action, but before or on the date of filing a Notice of Appeal will not be entered because applicant failed to provide a showing of good and sufficient reasons why the affidavit or other evidence is necessary and was not earlier presented. See 37 CFR 1.116(e).
9. ☐ The affidavit or other evidence filed after the date of filing a Notice of Appeal, but prior to the date of filing a brief, will not be entered because the affidavit or other evidence failed to overcome all rejections under appeal and/or appellant fails to provide a showing of good and sufficient reasons why it is necessary and was not earlier presented. See 37 CFR 41.33(d)(1).
10. ☐ The affidavit or other evidence is entered. An explanation of the status of the claims after entry is below or attached.

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION/OTHER

11. ☒ The request for reconsideration has been considered but does NOT place the application in condition for allowance because:
See Continuation Sheet.
12. ☐ Note the attached Information Disclosure Statement(s). (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s). _____
13. ☐ Other: _____.

DAVID J. BUTTNER
PRIMARY EXAMINER

David Buttner

Continuation of 11. does NOT place the application in condition for allowance because: applicant has not substantiated that at least 24 hours is necessary for the insolubles to dissolve. Applicant states one of ordinary skill would recognize at least 24 hours would be necessary for a base to dissolve the insolubles of a galactomannan gum, but it is hard to believe this could be easily recognized without experimentation. Dissolving the insolubles of a galactomannan gum with a base is the essence of applicant's invention and presumably a novel concept (according to applicant). How can the dissolution time be readily apparent for a dissolution that has never been tried before? The examiner is unaware of the time frame needed. Gupta contemplates at least 10 hours (table 1) of delay between mixing and introduction into the subterranean zone.

The definition of "substantially" devoid is never given in applicant's specification nor is the time for dissolution. Because the amount of insolubles is the only potential difference between the applied art and applicant's claims, the phrase must be defined unequivocally to overcome the applied references. If the prior art holds the mixture for a length of time to dissolve 50% of the insolubles, does this meet the claims? How about 95%? Do 99.999% need to be dissolved to be "substantially" devoid of insolubles?

Applicant does not comment on the typical amount of time spent in the art between mixing the well treating fluids and introduction into the subterranean formation.

Yeh (col 1 line 45; col2 line 67; col 6 line 34) clearly indicates his aqueous base treatment of galactomannan results in low insolubles. Applicant's insistence that gelling agent will be produced according to Yeh's sequence of steps is at odds with Yeh's statements to the contrary. Yeh considers his method to lessen insolubles. After washing, Yeh states the guar has 10-30% moisture (col 5 line 5) which must include some of the previously supplied base. This is then added to large amounts of water (col 6 line 22) which undoubtedly hydrates the guar. At this point, claim 36's water, hydrated galactomannan (ie hydrated guar) and base are all present. It is further known that the amount of insolubles have been reduced.